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REEL GUYS NOT HAPPY

GERARD BUTLER DOESN'T IMPRESS IN PLAYING FOR KEEPS PAGE 11

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Reed Ludwig, who raised the most money internationally this Movember, has kept his 'stache for now. He plans to get rid of it within the next week and says his wife is "looking forward to it being shaved." ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Sask. man tops chart for 'stache cash

Charity. Meet the guy who raised the most money with his moustache

A Saskatchewan man has grown the most charitable Movember moustache in the world.

Reed Ludwig was able to raise $96,346 in his Movember fundraiser, putting him on top of the international leaderboard.

"It's quite overwhelming actually. I still don't know how to describe it. The support has been unbelievable," Ludwig said at the Saskatchewan Legislature Thursday.

Ludwig's efforts were commended by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall in session Thursday.

"We are really proud that the worldwide Movember leader is from right here in Saskatchewan," said Premier Wall, whose own Movember campaign raised $15,971.

Quoted

"We are really proud that the worldwide Movember leader is from right here in Saskatchewan."

Premier Brad Wall

Ludwig said part of his motivation to raise money in support of prostate cancer awareness is because "(he) had a grandfather that dealt with it briefly."

He has never participated in Movember before, nor even grown a moustache.

"I just said 'Why not? Lets see what we can do,'" Ludwig told reporters.

Ludwig says the feat was a team effort as the company he works for, MEG Energy, matched donations made by other employees. Ludwig was chosen in October to represent the company as a whole for Movember after he competed in a 10-day moustache growing competition.

The original goal was to raise $50,000 on site, but Ludwig said, "it grew to be a lot bigger than that."

Canada raised more money for Movember than any other country for the second year in a row. The Movember culture continues to grow as more people like Ludwig join in every year.

"Most definitely, I would do it again, yes," Ludwig said. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Online

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Labour.
Minimum wage mostly guaranteed for disabled workers

Included in the new labour legislation introduced by Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Don Morgan Tuesday was a provision that guarantees minimum wage for people with disabilities.

"We have made a specific policy choice to make sure that nobody discriminates against people with disabilities," said Morgan.

However, there is a pre-existing regulation Morgan says will remain, allowing some disabled people not to be paid minimum wage.

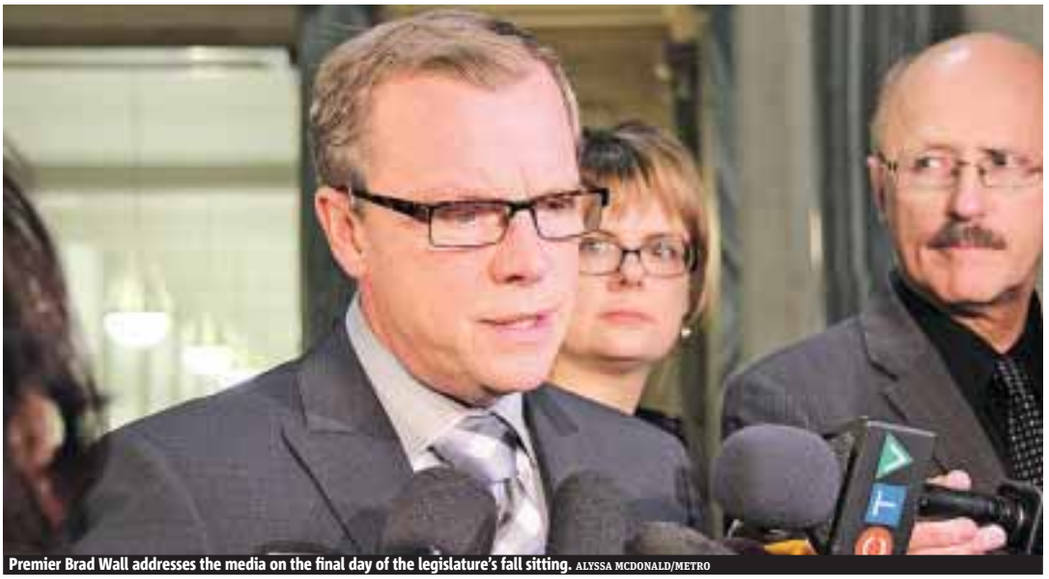
"The act does not apply to employees who have a physical or mental disability or impairment and who work for a non-profit organization or institution in programs that are educational, therapeutic or rehabilitative," said Morgan, quoting labour standards regulations. "That regulation will continue over into the new act when the regulations get proclaimed with it."

This exemption allows programs like Saskatoon's Cosmopolitan Industries (Cosmo) to continue to pay its disabled participants less than minimum wage. Cosmo offers specialized vocational training and recreational programs.

"Without this exemption all of our programs would be turned into arts and crafts programs, social programs, recreational programs, all with no productive capacity," said Ken Gryschuk, manager of business development and community relations at Cosmo.

The province says this new framework ensures equality, while allowing programs like Cosmo to operate.

JEFF MACKEY/METRO



Premier Brad Wall addresses the media on the final day of the legislature's fall sitting. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Fall legislature saw big changes

Getting with it.
Modernization key in fall sitting of Saskatchewan legislature

Quote

"They're selling off land that was purchased many years ago for Sask Housing. They're selling ISC."

NDP Leader John Nilson, criticizing some legislation by Premier Brad Wall's government.

The fall sitting of the Saskatchewan legislature saw new liquor rules, big changes for labour and a plan to privatize the Crown corporation that handles land and personal property registries.

Premier Brad Wall said the changes are about common sense.

"We think there's some modernization that's represented in those changes," Wall said Thursday after the fall sitting wrapped up.

The province announced more than 70 new liquor regulations, including the move to allow alcohol to be served at striptease performances and wet clothing contests — as long as there isn't full-frontal nudity. The new rules also allow movie theatres to serve alcohol in age-restricted areas.

Saskatchewan is also adding three private liquor stores to its retail mix: two stores in Saskatoon and one in Regina. Wall said new liquor stores are needed because of population growth.

The labour changes are part of a new Saskatchewan Employment Act, which consolidates 12 workplace-related pieces of legislation into one omnibus bill.

The government also introduced legislation that will allow it to sell 60 per cent of Information Services Corp. (ISC).

The Opposition New Democrats said they were pleased that the government changed labour rules to better protect late-night retail workers from violence. NDP Leader John Nilson also liked that the government agreed to an NDP suggestion to make public a list of government buildings that contain asbestos.

But not everything made Nilson happy.

"We're quite disappointed with the numbers of things that they are selling or disposing of to get dollars to fund their budget," he said.

"They're selling off land that was purchased many years ago for Sask Housing. They're selling ISC."

Nilson also said there are still many unanswered questions about the labour legislation and he would have liked more time in the fall sitting to review that bill.

The legislation that was introduced this fall is expected to be passed in the spring sitting, which starts in March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan government tucks away time capsule for future reflection

Provincial forecast. Premier Brad Wall says capsule will offer a peek of what life in 2012 was like, some 100 years from now

Deep in a wall of the Saskatchewan legislature is a Roughrider football team loonie, a radio frequency identification tag used to track cattle and canola and mustard seeds.

They're part of a time capsule Premier Brad Wall placed into the cornerstone of the legislature.

Wall says the capsule will provide future generations with a glimpse of the province in 2012.

It's in the same location where a time capsule was removed late last year to mark the 100th anniversary of the legislative building.

The new capsule is to be opened in 100 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Capsule creds

Century-old secret? Wall says there are no mystery items — a joking reference to a century-old photo of a mystery man that was slipped into the old capsule. The photo wasn't on the list of the time capsule's contents and provincial officials were perplexed. The man was eventually identified as Franklin Joseph Robinson, who was a land surveyor by profession and worked for the government in various roles for a long time. At some point, Robinson became the deputy minister of public works and oversaw construction of the legislature.

Sask Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield, left, Opposition NDP Leader John Nilson, Premier Brad Wall and Speaker Dan D'Autremont hold the time capsule on Thursday. The capsule will be opened in the year 2112. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO

Health care

Regina General cancels surgeries

Saskatchewan's health minister says it's disconcerting that some elective surgeries and non-surgical elective procedures are being cancelled in Regina.

Dustin Duncan says his ministry is in close contact with the health region and believes it can manage the situation.

Some elective surgeries at Regina General Hospital have been cancelled for today and Friday because the facility is overcapacity.

The health region said Tuesday that it was cancelling some non-surgical elective procedures at both Regina hospitals.

Duncan says cancellations happen from time to time and he hopes the matter will be cleared up in the next few days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP first

Female officer chosen for coveted training position

The RCMP has appointed a female officer to its highest non-commissioned job at the training depot in Regina.

Sgt. Maj. Tammy Patterson is the first woman to hold the position in Saskatchewan.

RCMP spokeswoman Erin Odishaw says the promotion puts Patterson in charge of protocol, ceremonies and cadet behaviour at the academy.

The role has been vacant since a retirement in September.

Odishaw says the force came up with a short list of officers for the job and Patterson was selected as the best candidate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fatal collision

Man killed in minivan on Highway 316 after collision with pickup truck

A man has been killed in a collision involving a minivan and a pickup truck in Saskatchewan.

The crash happened Thursday morning on Highway 316, a few kilometres north of Clavet.

RCMP investigators say it appears the northbound minivan lost control on ice and was struck on the passenger-side door by the speeding southbound truck.

The man who died was driving the minivan, while the truck driver suffered minor injuries.

The victim's name has not been released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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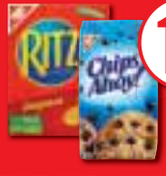

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This photo illustrates a tarot reading. People's belief systems make them vulnerable to the kinds of scams run by false mediums, says James Alcock, a York University professor. Those beliefs range from believing in the existence of the occult to thinking that financial advisers' pyramid schemes will make you rich. ISTOCK

Bewitching promises

Psychic claims. Visit to 'Angel of Love' leaves Toronto man broke and heavy-hearted

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Toronto

"Rick" first went to see Angel because he wanted to find his ex-girlfriend.

He was responding to an ad by a psychic who calls himself the "Angel of Love."

He returned to Angel, repeatedly, because he wanted his band's music to be heard around the world.

Today, the ex-girlfriend hasn't returned, the band is still unknown and Rick is $11,000 poorer. He doesn't want his real name used because he's deeply embarrassed. He's an intelligent man who holds a good job with the provincial government.

Police say his case is not unique. Last week, Toronto police laid fraud charges against a man claiming to be a witch doctor. On Wednesday, police again cautioned the public about three women claiming to be psychics who preyed on two Chinese victims.

There is a fine line between psychics who break the law and those who don't.

According to Toronto police spokesman Const. Tony Vella, offering a psychic reading for money is legal. It becomes fraud if the psychic knowingly frightens the client into giving him money. There is a law against pretending to practice witchcraft, but it's legal to believe you are offering a real psychic reading.

Rick says Angel told him an evil spirit was causing his problems. For a fee, he claimed to be able to remove the spirit.

Rick met Angel and his female assistant at their office.

"To start off, it's going to be $900. So I went and I took $900 from … my Visa."

He was told to drink a cup of liquid.

"I started barfing right in a cup. I said it's too much. He said it's just the start."

Rick returned to Angel many times since his first visit last spring. He spent another $3,000, before being told to phone their leader, "Juan," in Miami. That man asked Rick for another $11,000. Juan convinced him the "evil spirit in the netherworld" would obey their commands, for a price. He promised him Angel would show him the evil spirit in person.

"I took out $8,000 more. It was the most I could get," he said. "He said okay, enough, we'll work on it for you."

Angel didn't show him the spirit like promised, Rick says.

Toronto's Angel of Love has not been convicted of any crime related to his soothsaying business.

Guilt and shame

"My money's gone though. They're happy about it. They're laughing. Probably got a new car."

Rick, who says he was scammed but is too embarrassed to go to the police.

Secret recording

To hear a recording of Jessica Smith's own session with the Angel of Love, visit metronews.ca

- **Also online.** A perspective from a woman who enjoys psychic readings

Why we fall for scams

You've been very hurt by someone in your past

We're all susceptible to scams when they play on the belief system we've adopted since childhood, according to a psychology professor at York University in Toronto.

"Everybody's vulnerable," said James Alcock, who teaches a class on belief systems. "You could take a person who doesn't believe in curses, won't believe in psychics, is very careful about responding to spam emails and yet they could be suckered by some financial adviser."

Belief in psychics, witches, curses and spells is deeply rooted in many cultures and people usually pick up those beliefs as children.

While some psychics truly believe in what they're doing, others scam, picking up on their mark's vulnerabilities, said Alcock. "There's a need the person has, or the psychic creates the need, and then they fill the need," he said.

Many psychics use tricks of the trade to read people and gain their confidence, said Alcock. He gives a "cold reading" to a student in his class every year, even though he's not psychic.

"When you're talking to a psychic, you're giving feedback, even if you're trying not to," he said.

The combination of vague statements and careful observation works. Every so often, a student will come up to him privately after class to ask if he really is psychic, because he appeared to know all about some deeply personal thing that happened to them.

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A Free Syrian Army fighter breaks a hole in the wall of a resident's home on Wednesday during heavy clashes with government forces in Aleppo. NARCISO CONTRERAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assad's back against the wall as rebels close in

Syrian crisis. President may have no choice but to fight to the death, diplomat says

The battle for Damascus looms closer. As Syrian rebels encircle President Bashar al Assad's stronghold, he will be aware of the fate met by fellow leaders who misruled their people and faced their wrath.

Libya's Moammar Gadhafi dragged out of a drainpipe, sodomized and shot. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt jailed for life.

The opposition under the loose umbrella of the Free Syrian Army is battling Assad's forces in the south and eastern suburbs, and on the road to the airport as his warplanes hit back. As the noose tightens around Damascus, the seat of family rule since Assad's late father, Hafez, seized power 42 years ago, the president faces tough choices about what to do next. Fight or flee?

An important calculation in his decision is the fate of his Alawite community, a minority who practise an offshoot of Shiite Islam and have been instrumental in suppressing the uprising.

They make up 12 per cent of the population but are the backbone of the regime — 80 per cent of the army's officer class are Alawites.

Assad will fight to the death because the rebels, many of whom are Sunni, would show no mercy, said Nikolaos van Dam, a veteran diplomat with 35 years of experience in Syria.

"This is a battle for death or life," he said. "The regime knows if they are toppled they will simply be killed. It could be a long battle in Damascus."

Violence is spiralling out of control. On Wednesday, 140 people died, the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The government controls only half of Aleppo and several military bases have been overrun by opposition fighters, according to reports by Syrian-based activists.

Speculation is intensifying about how long the regime can hold on. On Monday, Nabil al Araby, head of the Arab League, told Agence France-Presse that the government could fall at "any time."

An internal coup by officers against Assad is not an option because the new leaders would be overthrown by rebels determined to end the Alawite control of state institutions, van Dam said.

Exile in Russia, which has backed him, or to another country, with his wife, Asma, and their three children, is no guarantee he would not be extradited for war crimes in the future, van Dam said.

Assad fleeing the country to save himself would leave Alawite soldiers and civilians at the mercy of rebels, said Joshua Landis, director of Middle East Studies at Oklahoma University who blogs at Syria Comment.

"The Alawites are counting on Assad to protect his people from possible retribution," he said. "He's kept them hostage, in a sense, and now he can't abandon him."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Global perspective

Worries over chemical weapons

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird is urging China and Russia to lean on the regime of Syrian President Bashar al Assad as reports emerge he could unleash chemical weapons on his people.

The UN Security Council has been powerless to censure Syria because of the objections of veto-wielding Russia and China.

"We have called on countries like Russia and China to use whatever leverage they have to prevent this serious crisis from entering a new, disastrous phase," Baird told the House of Commons on Thursday.

Meanwhile, NATO is following through on its plan to place Patriot missiles and troops along Syria's border with Turkey to guard against potential attacks.

The Assad regime denounces this move as psychological warfare and says it won't stop it from defeating the rebel forces it says are terrorists.

Western countries are wary about arming rebels because of fears of extremists in their ranks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BMO survey

More Canadians have RRSPs than this time last year

An increasing number of Canadians surveyed in a BMO study have invested in a registered retirement savings plan this year. The BMO Financial Group poll found 67 per cent of respondents have an RRSP, compared to 61 per cent at this time last year. Nearly three-quarters of respondents plan to contribute the same amount or more to their RRSP than they did last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Natural gas: $3.63 (-7¢)
Dow Jones: 13,074.04 (+39.55)

Q4 earnings reports

Strong results for banks clouded by loan outlook

Shares in TD Bank, CIBC and National Bank of Canada all fell Thursday as worries about the outlook for consumer loans amid record household debt overshadowed earnings reports that met or exceeded expectations.

Despite solid fourth-quarter financial results, National Bank fell 1.4 per to $76.60, CIBC gave back 0.47 per cent to $80.14 and TD was off 1.8 per cent, closing at $81.12.

The performance "reflects what investors see as a challenging environment for the banks," said CIBC World Markets analyst Rob Sedran, who forecast a 2013 growth pullback in the sector to between five per cent and six per cent.

He said the banks are bracing for a decline in consumer loans growth, especially in the cooling housing market, as governments tighten mortgage rules and leveraged consumers become more cautious about borrowing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada Post flunks information-request report card — again

Ottawa. Information commissioner finds postal service is still far from achieving transparency

Canada Post vehicles sit outside a sorting depot in the Ville St-Laurent borough of Montreal in this file photo. Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault has found the postal service has made only a bit of improvement over the past two years in how it processes information requests. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The information watchdog says Canada Post has delivered only marginal improvement on its handling of access-to-information requests.

The post office received an F on its latest report card from Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault after being stamped with red-alert status for its poor performance two years ago.

As reported Wednesday, the CBC got an A for its processing of requests in 2011-12, up from an F for its performance two years ago.

The access law allows people who pay $5 to seek federal files ranging from expense reports and email messages to briefing notes and internal audits.

As an ombudsman for users of the law, Legault has periodically looked at whether key institutions meet their legal obligations of transparency.

In her report card on Canada Post, Legault said although the Crown corporation has taken some steps toward improving its performance, it is still far from achieving optimal compliance with the law.

In a statement Thursday, Canada Post said it was disappointed with the F rating, as it had taken steps to improve performance. It committed to doing even better.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada. Low interest rates putting stress on world economy, central bank says

The Bank of Canada is warning that its own low-interest policies and those of central banks around the world are adding another layer of risk to the already stressed global financial system and economy.

The central bank says near-record-level interest rates in place since the 2008-09 recession are taking their toll on insurance companies, pension funds and even increasing the appetite of investors to take risks in search of higher returns.

In Canada, they have been a prime mover to the other major domestic risk — an overheated housing market and high levels of consumer debt as Canadians take advantage of cheap money to buy real estate.

Bank governor Mark Carney has warned about the dangers of low interest rates sporadically in the past, but this time the bank's governing council has thought the concern grave enough to add it to the list of risks facing Canada and the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Line of Macs will be made in U.S., Apple CEO says

Apple CEO Tim Cook says the company will move production of one of its existing lines of Mac computers to the United States next year.

Industry watchers said the announcement is both a cunning public-relations move and a harbinger of more manufacturing jobs moving back to the U.S. as wages rise in China.

Cook made the comments in part of an interview aired Thursday morning on Today and posted on the network's website.

"This doesn't mean that Apple will do it ourselves, but we'll be working with people and we'll be investing our money," Cook said in a separate interview with Bloomberg Businessweek.

That suggests the company could be helping its Taiwanese manufacturing partner Foxconn Technology Group to set up a factory in the U.S.

Cook didn't say which line of computers would be produced in the U.S. or where in the country they would be made. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

$100M

Apple CEO Tim Cook told Bloomberg Businessweek that the company will spend $100 million US in 2013 to move production of one of its lines of Mac computers to the U.S. from China.

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Contact Info: 306.529.7830
Lbinfet@maxwellrealty.ca

FRACAS ENSUES AFTER F-BOMB DROPPED IN THE HOUSE

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

TGIF, when you can read The Metro List and relive the parade of wonders that marks yet another zany week in this crazy world we live in.

1 **We are amused.** The next generation of British royals is gestating and poor Kate ends up in the hospital suffering from a right royal bout of morning sickness. After enduring a round-the-clock siege from publicity hounds and pranksters, she emerges looking remarkably well, considering, proving once again that there will always be an England. There might even be twins.

2 **Nothing amusing here.** The Harper government House leader nearly comes to blows with his NDP counterpart after crossing the floor in a pugnacious manner to deliver a speech composed primarily of the F word. Who elected these clowns? Oh, right.

3 **Attack of the killer PM.** Why can't we elect somebody cool like Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard who takes time out of her busy schedule to reassure her people that even though the world will end on Dec. 21 (as allegedly predicted by the Mayan calendar), she will continue to stand by them to the bitter end, which will be caused by: "flesh eating zombies, demonic hell beasts or from the total triumph of K-Pop." I think she's kidding, but the Tasmanian devil certainly fits the description of a demonic hell beast.

4 **Speaking of the end of the world.** The poor little misunderstood pop star Justin Bieber is snubbed by the Grammy nominators again in favour of dumb old guys like Jack White, the Black Keys, and Maroon 5. As if!

5 **Riot like an Egyptian.** The Muslim Brotherhood, now in power as the Arab Spring turns to winter, passes a constitution that prohibits discrimination against anyone, but removes the phrase: "on the basis of sex, origin, religion and creed." Uh-oh. The Brotherhood's power grab has blown the lid off the uneasy calm on the streets of Cairo, where spring seems a long, long time ago.

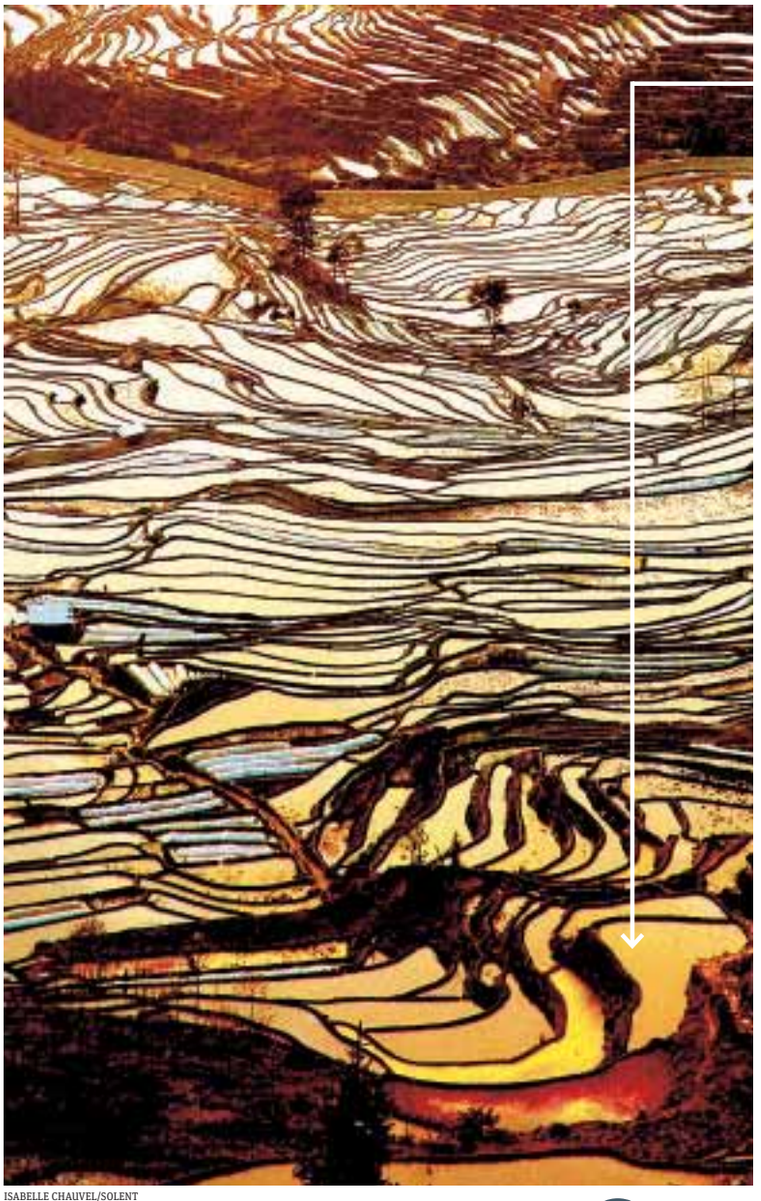
6 **Lest we forget.** This week marks the 23rd anniversary of the cold-blooded murder of 14 women in Montreal by a crazed misogynist. It remains as horrifying as it did then. And yes, every man owns a piece of it.

7 **What would YOU have done?** A bus driver in Vienna, Austria, finds a sack stuffed with money, (390,000 euros to be precise, worth more than half a million Canadian dollars) and turns it in! It is traced to an elderly lady who left it behind on the bus. For being the world's most painfully honest man, the driver receives a small cash award and, as it's the end of his shift, gets to take the rest of the day off.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Peter Van Loan, the government's House leader, set off a dust-up when he stormed across the floor of the House of Commons to confront his NDP counterpart, Nathan Cullen, on Wednesday. SCREEN GRAB/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The beauty of making rice



ISABELLE CHAUVEL/SOLENT

Landscape photography

Shining spectacle found in rice fields

At first glance, it looks like a stained-glass window, but a wide gaze reveals something more grand and spectacular.

Reflective pools of water at one of the world's largest rice terraces offer stunning views, especially from 1,800 metres up in the mountains. Isabelle Chauvel took the photos in Yuanyang in China's Yunnan Province. METRO

Natural beauty

Man, nature create visual wonder

Chauvel spent from sunrise to sunset taking photos of the handcrafted rice terraces.

"At each time of the day, the colours reflected in the water were different — from bright orange, off-white, earthy brown and verdant green," she told Metro. "It was a true spectacle of what nature has to offer, and the amazing creation mankind has made." METRO

Yuanyang terraces

- Formed by the Hani people more than 1,000 years ago, the fields are still used today for irrigation and farming.
- Fields are irrigated with water from the forest. Water evaporates from fields into clouds — their rain is collected and trapped by mountain forests. In turn, spring water returns to fields.

Metropolitan Panel

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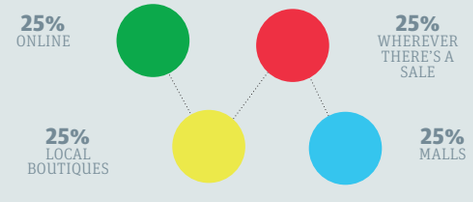

Twitter

@LyinRPL: See now, if we had a Stadium, we could hide there at the end of the world. Perhaps it will be ready for the zombie apocalypse. #yqr

@andrews_ryan: When football season is over in #YQR and there is no civic election I find this city really is quite peaceful!

@amandancsok: Dear 7-year-old boy wearing hipster glasses and skinny jeans: you rock. #coolkid

@jpdauphinais: Regina Traffic is now Calgaryianish. With the freezing rain coming, who needs the NHL?

@Kfb28: Dear dude and chick in the Criminal Record Check office at the police station who keep macking on each other: cut that s--t out.

metro

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Even Gerard Butler's trademark rakish smile can't save Playing For Keeps from crashing. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Playing for weeps

Laughless. The Reel Guys agree — Gerard Butler's latest attempt at a rom com has upset the Movie Godz

Richard: Mark, I tried hard to pin point exactly the thing that bugged me about Playing for Keeps. I thought long and hard and have come to realize that we don't have enough space here for me to fully explain why this doesn't work, but let's start with the idea that the women are simply treated as sexed-up plot points and move on from there. What did you think?

Mark: Bad enough that the women are treated as sexed-up plot points; unforgivable that they're all just dropped halfway through the movie. For a while, I thought I was watching a classic sexist Tony Curtis movie. Troglodyte, perhaps, but at least it was a bit of fun. Then the film lost its guts and became the story of a man who — sob — just wants to be reunited — sob — with his family. Yeccch!

RC: Yeah. The first half hour is, maybe not exactly promising, but on par for this kind of movie. Then it takes a turn. He has unresolved feelings for his ex-wife and the movie has unresolved plot points falling from the sky like the tears of the Movie Godz who weep when movies this bad get released. Butler's trademarked eye glint and rakish smile are not enough to save this, and someone please tell Uma Thurman to saddle up and work with Quentin Tarantino again.

MB: Speaking of Uma, how much Botox and Restylane is there in the greater Los Angeles area? Because she's left very little for the rest of us. And Zeta-Jones' vamping made me feel sorry for Butler — he probably had to endure take after take of her bad Anne Bancroft impression. Only Judy Greer gets to walk away with her dignity intact — but she always does, doesn't she? And the running gag with the East Indian landlord was embarrassing if not borderline racist. C'mon, Richard, give me something to like about this one!

RC: How about this? Katherine Heigl's not in it and it's not longer. At 106 minutes, it tests the limits of endurance. At 107 minutes or more we might have been able to press charges for cruelty. Judy Greer, however, is great and I'm going to have to ask you to be careful what you say about my Uma in future.

MB: I apologize, Richard. I love her too. It's just that I love her even more when her face can move about.

Synopsis

Gerard Butler plays George Dwyer, former soccer superstar, now sidelined by injuries. Broke and reduced to selling his own memorabilia to make ends meet, he moves to Virginia to be closer to his ex-wife (Jessica Biel) and their son Lewis (Noah Lomax). When the charming Scot begins coaches his son's soccer team all the soccer moms (Judy Greer, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman) throw themselves at him, but he has eyes for only one woman — his ex-wife.

- Richard: ●○○○○
- Mark: ●○○○○

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OPEN YEAR-ROUND

Richard Armitage's unexpected journey to becoming a dwarf

The Hobbit. Actor credits Tolkien with pushing his imagination and leading him to acting

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

In The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, British actor Richard Armitage plays Thorin Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king. He's a newcomer to the Peter Jackson vision of Middle Earth — which began with the three Lord of the Rings films, and continues with a new Hobbit trilogy — but no stranger to the world of author J.R.R. Tolkien.

"I am one of those people who have loved the book," he says. "I remember being read The Hobbit by a teacher in primary school who did amazing voices, God bless her. I picked up the book myself and started reading it, which was kind of rare because normally I would have to be forced to read."

He missed the chance to audition for the first set of films, but when The Hobbit came around he jumped at the chance.

"I had no idea how I would fit into that story because the idea of playing a dwarf just wasn't on my radar. I'm six foot three and a half, so why on earth would I play a dwarf?"

It wasn't the first time he was excited to bring the fantasy of Middle Earth to life.

"I was in a stage production of The Hobbit when I was 13," he says, "which I leapt at. It's weird how you have that reaction when someone says they're doing a stage production, at 13 to go, 'I've read that book. I love it. Let me be in it.' I had the same feeling when they were making this movie."

He says thoughts of that long ago play are "filled with strange memories."

"I remember wearing a knitted smock, which had been sprayed silver to look like chain mail but it was made of wool. I was an elf. I was pretty tall for 13 years old. Gollum was made of paper and they didn't have enough money for a dragon, so it was a red light, a puff of smoke and a man off stage with a microphone. I remember running around in circles eating grapes because we were doing a scene in the forest where the Elves are tempting the dwarves to come to their feast."

He draws a straight line between his early love of Tolkien and his current profession.

"My imagination was totally stimulated by Tolkien's world and I think once you've had your imagination stimulated in that way, every book you ever read you dramatize in your head. You hear character's voices and visualize that world."

Richard Armitage plays Thorin Oakenshield, exiled dwarf king, in The Hobbit. HANDOUT

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 7 TO THURS., DEC. 13. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Southland Mall
3025 Gordon Rd.

Argo (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:55-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:45
Cloud Atlas (14A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:25-8 Mon-Thu 7 Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri 7:40 Sat-Sun 2-4:50-7:40 Mon-Thu 5:45 Hotel Transylvania (G) Sat-Sun 1-3:30 Lincoln (PG) Fri 6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 5:15-8:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Man With the Iron Fists (18A) Fri-Sun 10:15 Mon-Thu 8:15
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri 7:25-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:30-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:50
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:05-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:30
The Sessions (18A) Fri-Sun 7:10-9:15 Mon-Thu 5:40-8
Skyfall (PG) Fri 6:55-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:55-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Sat-Sun 1:45
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:25-7:55

Galaxy Cinemas
Normanview S.C.
420 McCarthy Blvd. N. Unit 26

A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
Flight (14A) Fri 3:55-6:55-10:05 Sat 3:40-6:55-10:05 Sun 3:55-7:10-10:10 Mon-Wed 7:05-10:10 Thu 9:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) No Passes Thu 10
Killing Them Softly (14A) Fri 5:15-7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:45-10:15
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 4-7-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Wed 7:15-10:05 Thu 7:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Live (STC) Sat 11:55
Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Sun 12:45 Wed 7 Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri 4:45-7:20-9:45 Sat 11:35-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:45 Sun 11:35-2:10-4:40-7:20-9:45 Mon-Wed 6:55-9:55 Thu 6:55-10:10
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 5:25-8-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:55-5:25-8-10:25 Mon-Tue 8-10:25 Wed 10:25 Thu 8-10:25
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 12
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 5-7:35-9:55 Sat-Sun 2:30-5-7:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:30-10
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Thu 7:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:40 Sat 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
Skyfall (PG) Fri 3:40-7:10-10:30 Sat 12:20-4:20-7:25-10:30 Sun 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:25-10:30 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:20
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Sat-Sun 12:05
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri 5:20-7:55-10:25 Sat-Sun 2:45-5:20-7:55-10:25 Mon-Thu 7:55-10:25

Kramer IMAX Theatre
2903 Powerhouse Dr.

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Sea Rex: Journey to a Prehistoric World 3D (STC) Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8:15 Sat 12:30-3-5:30-7 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8:15 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-7 Wed 12:30-3-5:30-8:15 Thu 12:30-3
To the Arctic 3D (G) Fri 1:45-4:15-7 Sat 1:45-4:15-8:15 Sun 1:45-4:15-7
Tornado Alley 3D (STC) Tue 1:45-4:15-8:15 Wed 1:45-4:15-7 Thu 1:45-4:15

Paradise Cinema
1011 N. Devonshire Dr.

Argo (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:20
Hotel Transylvania (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7 Mon-Thu 7
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30

Golden Mile
3806 Albert St.

Brave (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4-6:55-9:35
Chasing Mavericks (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:35-9:20
Frankenweenie (G) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50
Ice Age: Continental Drift (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-3:50
Looper (14A) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:25
The Man With the Iron Fists (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:30-9:30
Paranormal Activity 4 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4-7-9:50
Silent Hill: Revelation (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:40-9:45
Sinister (14A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:40
Taken 2 (PG) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:05-7:05-9:55 Thu 4:05-7:05-9:55 Thu 1

Regina Public Library Film Theatre
23 11 12th Ave.

Foodie Film Fest (STC) Fri 7-9 Sat 7 Sun 7-9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
The Perks of Being a Wallflower (PG) Thu 9
Smashed (14A) Thu 7
Wednesday Plus (STC) Wed 6:45

Don't miss Last Chance

With Human Rights Day on December 10, the National Film Board of Canada is offering a free screening on their website of Last Chance, a documentary by Paul Émile d'Entremont featuring five asylum-seekers from Jamaica, Colombia, Lebanon, Egypt and Nicaragua who have fled homophobic violence. Check out NFB.ca, or metronews.ca/scene to see the trailer.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

'Tis the season in the city for these two starlets

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Sarah Jessica Parker and Naomi Watts not only juggle A-list acting careers as well as their families, but they also somehow find the time to take advantage of New York City's many cultural opportunities (annoying, I know).

"We have incredible museums that are affordable and free, we have tons of wonderful ballet companies. I try to do all these things with my children. Simply walking up and down the streets of New York — there's art everywhere, there's things to talk about," said Parker Thursday night at the New 42 Gala, which honoured the Australia Council for the Arts as well as supported the New Victory Education Program. Naomi Watts — who was there with her children, Sasha, 5, and Samuel, 4, and partner Liev Schreiber — agrees. "We've done a few shows with the kids. It's a treat," she said.

But lest you think Parker and Watts are so perfect they only fill their childrens' heads with intellectual goodness, rest assured both women have fallen prey to holiday craziness.

"We're pretty conventional," says Parker about her holidays with her family, which includes husband, actor Matthew Broderick, son James, 10, and twin daughters Marion and Tabitha, 3. "We like to be together, we like to eat, we play Yankee Trader."

Meanwhile, it seems like the Liev/Watts household has fallen victim to the holiday terrorist that is Elf on the Shelf. (For those of you lucky enough not to know what this is, the Elf on the Shelf is a doll who allegedly spies on your kids at Christmas time and has to be moved night after night by the parents. It's great for about a hot minute.)

"I think they're getting into the whole Santa Claus thing," Watts said about her little family. "They've got the Elf on the Shelf and every night he moves." **WITH REPORTING BY OLIVIA MORROW**

Kate Middleton

Sovereign stork to arrive in the summer

It's going to be a summer baby for Kate Middleton, according to Life & Style. "She's due in July, which is a month full of significance for William," a source says. "His mother, Diana, was born on July 1, and his parents got married on July 29." As for who the godparents will be for the new prince or princess? Signs are pointing to Prince Harry and Pippa Middleton, according to ABC News. "Kate is very close to her sister, Pippa, and William is infinitely, in the same way, close to Prince Harry. So they are the obvious choice," royal contributor Victoria Arbiter Brown says. "They were the best man and the chief bridesmaid at their wedding, they're well-trusted, they're family."

A second sleepover for Swift and Styles

Taylor Swift ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The fledging romance between Taylor Swift and One Direction star Harry Styles appears to be heating up pretty quickly, if their latest rendezvous are any indication. Styles was spotted trying to sneak into the New York City hotel where Swift is staying, an overnight bag over his shoulder, according to Hollyscoop. That's the second night in a row the young music stars have spent together at the hotel this week.

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If there's a liquid silver lining to winter being around the corner, it's that port season has officially arrived.

This time of year provides chilly nights and the opportunity for roaring fires, both perfect companions to a glass of the king of Portuguese wine.

For some of you, port carries more baggage than the Kardashian sisters on a three- day vacation. The term has been used by countries the world over (including Canada) on the labels of generic, booze-infused wines that totally take the regal name of port in vain.

Most have stopped, and true port is finding a new audience as a luxurious meal ender or cigar companion (if you're so inclined).

Choosing the port that's right for you can be a struggle. Most are expensive and not all are appropriate for drinking right away.

A Late Bottled Vintage style, like Taylor's 2005 LBV ($16.45 to $24.99), is a mid-priced blend of wines all produced in the same year. Smooth, with deep, dark berry fruit, an LBV is drinkable right out of the bottle, will keep for several weeks once opened and makes a great introduction to the world of port. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Step up fancy factor with Prime Veal Chop

Prime Veal Chop with Pesto and Feta Cheese. It may be hard to believe, but this delicious recipe takes just three ingredients to make

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

I created this recipe for The Pickle Barrel chain of restaurants in Toronto.

The veal chop is beautifully lean and tender.

The combination of pesto and feta complements it beautifully and gives the dish a Mediterranean twist.

This goes well with grilled vegetables and mashed potatoes.

Ingredients

4 portions
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 14 minutes

- four 6- to 8-oz prime veal chops with bone in (also known as the French cut)
- 2 tbsp pesto
- 2 tbsp crumbled feta cheese

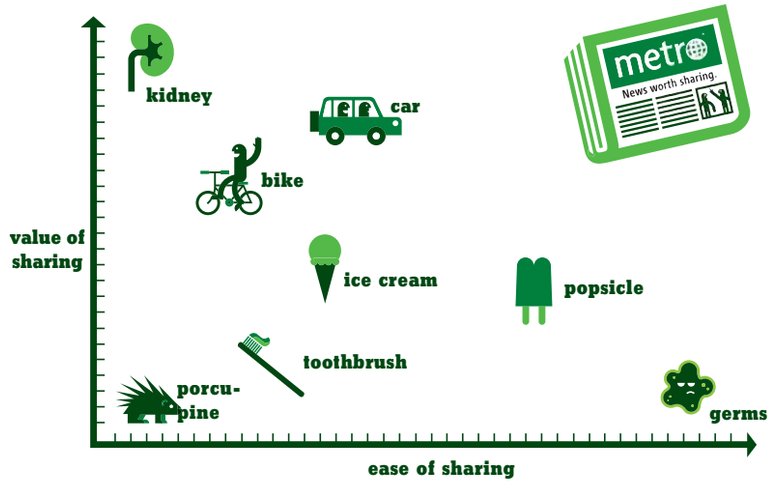
This recipe serves four. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking oil.

2. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil and place over medium-high heat. Cook the veal on both sides just until seared and browned, approximately 2 minutes per side. Place on the prepared baking sheet.

3. Spread both sides of the veal with pesto sauce and sprinkle with the feta, patting the cheese down firmly.

4. Bake for approximately 10 minutes, until the internal temperature registers about 135 F for medium-rare, or to desired doneness. Let rest 5 minutes before serving. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**



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HOLIDAY 2012
gift guide

18 shopping days left

Television Wonderland

Sharp 90-inch LED TV — $9,999.99, below, Panasonic Viera TCL42U5 — $499, right.

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Wouldn't it be nice to wake up to a brand new television Christmas morning?

Whether you are looking for a new TV or simply want to add to your home theatre, there are plenty of options for you or the videophile on your shopping list.

Panasonic Viera TCL42U5 — $499

Not everyone needs all the bells and whistles of some of the more expensive televisions on the market. Sometimes you just want to watch TV. This 42-inch 1080p LCD TV gives a great picture for a fraction of the price of most other sets. You still get a variety of inputs (including three HDMI) plus you will benefit from Eco mode.

LG Cinema 3D LM9600 — $2,299

If your heart is set on a 3-D TV, look no further than this LED TV from LG. It has the ability to convert any 2-D content into breathtaking 3-D on the fly. Everything can be controlled through simple gestures using the Magic Remote, or simply tell your TV what you want it to do through voice control.

Sharp 90-inch LED TV — $9,999.99

Good luck bringing this one down the chimney Santa! Sharp's 90-inch LED TV is the largest in Canada. Experience movies the way they were meant to be seen — on the big screen. The larger screen allows for bigger speakers, giving you a theatre-like experience right in your home. Gamers will enjoy the Vyper Drive feature that reduces lag times while playing games. You can also connect wirelessly to the web or enjoy apps such as Netflix.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — $219

Not only can this Blu-ray device play your favourite high-definition movies in 2-D and 3-D, it can turn any TV into a smart TV with built-in apps such as Netflix, YouTube and Facebook. If you already own a Samsung smartphone you can use it to control the action.

Apple TV — $109

Access all of your iTunes content directly on your television. This tiny media player ensures all of your movies, TV shows, and music are readily available, plus get access to Netflix, YouTube and Vimeo without logging onto your computer. One of my favourite features has to be AirPlay, which allows you to stream content from your iPad, MacBook, or iMac right to your television with a simple click.

Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — $79.99

At one time you had to pay a fortune to get an amazing universal remote. The Harmony 650 proves that's no longer the case. Complete with colour display, this advanced remote can control up to five devices at a fraction of the price of other high-end remotes.

Samsung Blu-ray Player BD-E6500 — $219, left, Logitech Harmony 650 Remote — $79.99, top, Apple TV — $109,

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Beauty bounty

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

From beauty empowerment to fragranced skin, from shimmering nails to luscious hair, these gift ideas have her (and you) covered.

More than a makeup book, **Bobbi Brown Pretty Powerful** (Chronicle Books, 2012) is a confidence-builder from a pro who empowers with must-try tips and tricks. $34.95 hardcover, chapters.indigo.ca.

Give her nail polish collection a brand new sheen with **YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige**, an iridescent top coat that sparkles over any colour. $27, Holt Renfrew.

Any scent from the Byredo Parfums collection is a unique and special gift for fragrance lovers; **Byredo Black Saffron**, an Oriental Spicy eau de parfum is the newest. $235, Holt Renfrew.

Luscious **LoveFresh Lemon Verbena Body Butter** pampers skin with aloe, chamomile and calendula extracts, and is made sans parabens or petrolatum. $24, lovefresh.com.

Glamorous yet understated like its creator Aerin Lauder, the **Aerin Holiday Style Palette** offers foolproof shadows and subtle highlight powder. $78, esteelauder.ca.

Feminine and fragrant, **Valentino Valentina Body Scrub** is a creamy exfoliant in a lovely frosted jar she'll keep for years. $78, thebay.com.

The award-winning complexion-saver of the season, this natural moisture booster relieves eczema. **Consonant HydrExtreme Serum**, $72, consonantbody.com.

She'll swoon over **MAC's Sinfully Chic Face Kit**, a charming neutral makeup + brush set. Trust. $85, maccosmetics.com.

Soft, shiny, swingy hair is hers with silicone-free **Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil Shampoo**, which gently purifies all hair types, including fine, limp, and oily. $55.

Above: Valentino Valentina Body Scrub. Below: Consonant HydrExtreme Serum. Bottom: Aerin Holiday Style Palette.

Above left: Byredo Black Saffron. Above: YSL La Laque Couture Top Coat in Première Neige. Left: MAC's Sinfully Chic Face Kit, Byredo Black Saffron.

Junior football

MacAulay to stalk Thunder sidelines in 2013

The Regina Thunder have announced Scott MacAulay as the club's new head coach.

For the past three years MacAulay has held the position of special teams co-ordinator with the club. He has held several other coaching positions over the past 10 years, including defensive co-ordinator of Team Saskatchewan for three seasons.

"We are very excited to have coach MacAulay lead this team," said Regina Thunder president Brin Werrett in a press release. "Scott is a very organized and driven individual with a strong football background as both a player and coach. It won't take long for him to make an impact on this team."

MacAulay fills a vacancy after head coach Erwin Klempner's retirement at the end of the 2012 season.

METRO

MLB

Star free agents left waiting after winter meetings

As teams headed home from the baseball winter meetings on Thursday in Nashville, the biggest free agents were still on the market.

The availability of slugger Josh Hamilton and pitcher Zack Greinke held up decisions on other signings and possible trades involving Rangers star Michael Young and the Mets' Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sidney Crosby listens as NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters on Thursday in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fehr-ing the worst: NHL talks stall again

Day 82. No negotiations planned after NHLPA's proposal rejected by league

Quoted

"It looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future."

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr

The NHL labour talks have hit another roadblock — and this one appears to be massive.

After two optimistic days that suggested a deal could be imminent, negotiations between the league and the NHL Players' Association broke off dramatically Thursday.

The NHLPA presented a new offer on Thursday afternoon, a proposal that union head Donald Fehr called "a clear outline" to end the dispute.

Fehr said he believed the two sides are "clearly very close if not on top of one another in connection with most of the major issues."

The league flatly rejected the offer, saying the two sides aren't close despite what Fehr says.

"I don't know why he did that," an angry Gary Bettman told a news conference.

The NHL commissioner said any new offers the league made this week are now off the table.

"The take or give or bottom line on all this is: It appears that the union is suggesting because we made substantial movements in certain areas that we're close to a deal," said Bettman. "But those moves were contingent on the union specifically agreeing on other things, which, while the union may have moved towards, didn't agree to."

During talks this week, the league said it was willing to increase the amount of deferred transition money paid to the players to $300 million US — which sat directly between what had most recently been tabled by the NHL ($211 million) and NHLPA ($393 million).

Another issue that surfaced was the league's desire to see a 10-year term on the collective bargaining agreement. The union's offer Thursday was for eight years with an option for opting out after Year 6.

"I'm disappointed beyond belief that we are where we are tonight," said Bettman.

Fehr's comments took an equally negative tone.

"What can we tell the hockey fans of Canada? You can tell them that it looks like this is not going to be resolved in the immediate future," Fehr said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

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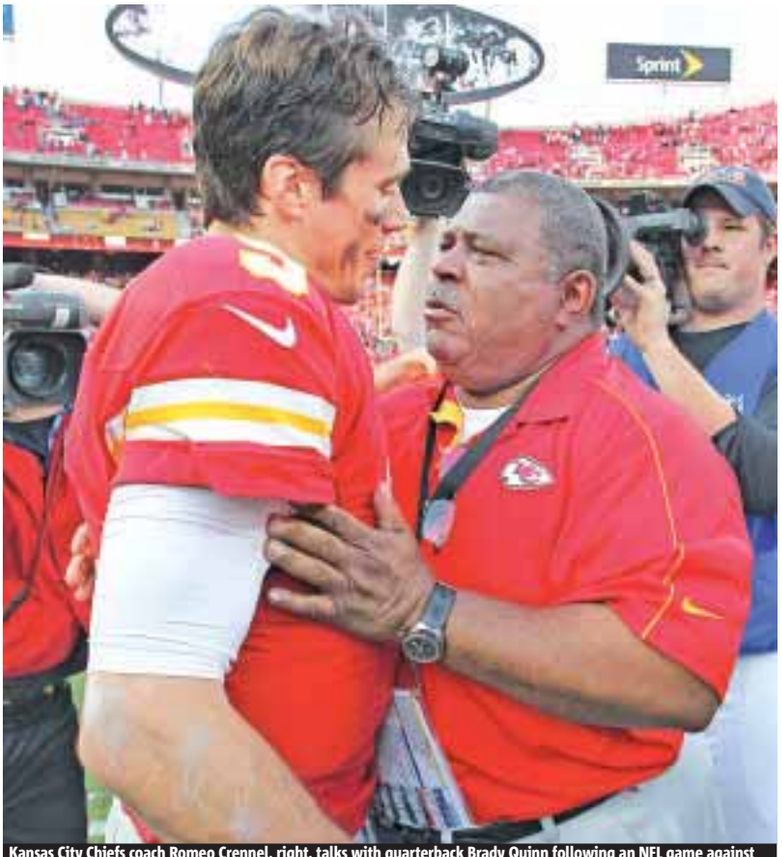
Quinn reflects on Belcher's last days

Seeking help. Stigma makes it hard for some players to deal with underlying mental-health issues



Kansas City Chiefs coach Romeo Crennel, right, talks with quarterback Brady Quinn following an NFL game against the Carolina Panthers at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on Dec 2. COLIN E. BRALEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady Quinn can't help but wonder whether he missed something in the final days of Jovan Belcher's life.

Could the Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback have listened better to his teammate? Could he have noticed a change in the linebacker's temperament? Did Belcher utter something under his breath that may have let on that he was capable of killing his girlfriend and himself?

"When you ask someone how they're doing, do you really mean it?" Quinn wondered. "When you answer back, are you really telling the truth?"

The murder-suicide last Saturday raised similar questions among players and coaches across the NFL. In an era in which physical safety is of paramount importance, it's become clear that ensuring the emotional well-being of the men who play the game is just as essential.

"The relationships you have with people face-to-face, on a daily basis, kind of get brushed aside for everything else that's out there," Quinn said. "A lot of times people hide their issues, their problems. They don't talk to anyone until it's too late."

This past July, the NFL established an emergency hotline that operates 24 hours a day and connects players, staff and family members in crisis with mental-health professionals who are not affiliated with the league or its teams. The group, which provides a similar service to the Veterans Administration, is required to keep its conversations confidential unless the individual calling indicates they may harm themselves or others.

The stigma often attached to mental health is pervasive in the NFL, where a macho culture has been long ingrained.

Several players indicated that the same attitude that carried them to the NFL — that in some ways they are indestructible — makes it difficult for them to reconcile needing outside help.

"In all my years playing football, I've never really seen a guy come out and say he needed help with this or he was having issues with this," said Rams offensive tackle Wayne Hunter, who's in his ninth year in the league. "Guys, including myself, generally keep our personal issues to ourselves."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder-suicide

'She loved her family,' says uncle

A relative of the slain girlfriend of Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher said Thursday that she was a loyal friend who brought joy to others with her smiles and laughter.

Kasandra Perkins' great-uncle Ted Downing also told mourners at a funeral service that the 22-year-old Perkins loved her family and considered her three-month-old daughter, Zoey, to be the love of her life.

"She had a deep, deep understanding about the important things in life," Downing said during a memorial at a rural North Texas church five days after Belcher killed Perkins before shooting himself in the head. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comeback. UFC fighter turned to his apparel company during injury

Fighter, entrepreneur: Mike "Quick" Swick can wear his own signature shirt into the cage or design yours.

The UFC welterweight can also help you out with stickers, decals, banners and signs courtesy of his company Spartan Screen Printing in San Jose, Calif.

His day job came in handy when he was sidelined for 910 days due to a digestive disorder and knee reconstruction. After losing to Paulo Thiago at UFC 109 in February 2010, Swick did not fight until this past August.

Following that win over Da-Marques Johnson, he returns to action Saturday against Matt "The Immortal" Brown on a televised card at the KeyArena.

Swick, 33, said while he had been smart with his fight winnings, "I never counted on a two-and-a-half-year rainy day.

"I invested all the money that I made, pretty much," he said. "I don't blow a lot. I invested in business. I have a business in San Jose and I did do that smartly so that it took care of me."

Swick (15-4) made up for lost time in his comeback fight, when he collected a $50,000 US bonus for knockout of the night. His resumé also includes owning a pressure-washing company, selling cars, waiting tables and time as a bouncer/bartender.

"I feel like, next to fighting, I guess I'm an entrepreneur," he added. "I love business. I love trying to make business work and making the right decisions and building stuff."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mike Swick celebrates after winning his welterweight bout against Ben Saunders at UFC 99 in June 2009. LARS BARON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

UFC

Diaz next on GSP's hit list

UFC president Dana White says Georges St-Pierre has asked to fight Nick Diaz next.

And the UFC boss says the UFC welterweight champion will likely get his wish.

St-Pierre was thought to be headed to a superfight with middleweight champion Anderson Silva next. But White says GSP told him he has unfinished business with Diaz. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

First women's fight to headline UFC 157

Former Olympic judo bronze medallist and rising mixed-martial arts star Ronda Rousey will fight in the main event at UFC 157 on Feb. 23 in Anaheim, Calif., where she will face Liz Carmouche in the first women's fight in UFC history. Rousey signed with the UFC in November after winning the bantamweight championship with Strikeforce. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You can be successful on a material level but you will also have to take on some heavy responsibilities. Are you prepared to do that? It's important that you decide one way or the other before making your next move.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may doubt that you are up to the task that has been set for you, but you must not let those doubts take hold. Think of life as a wonderful adventure. It's how you play the game.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Group activities are under the spotlight today and you may meet someone who has a profound effect on the way you look at the world. If you feel it is your destiny to do something special, you will soon get the chance.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you want to make a name for yourself, now is the time to begin. Set new goals and start long-term projects. Just make sure you know what the consequences will be. This isn't for fun, this is serious.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected delays may frustrate you today, and maybe into the weekend, but there is nothing you can do about them. So, lighten up. The scenery may pass slowly but that gives you more time to enjoy it.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your money situation may be going through an up and down phase, but the planets indicate that real wealth is within your grasp. You'll change the way you think about what you own and earn over the next 24 hours.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you usually get along with so well is hard to get through to today. It's as if there is an invisible barrier between you. Don't worry, it's nothing serious. They just need to be left alone with their thoughts for a while.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Don't worry if a plan or project you have been working on for months, maybe even years, is still not complete. It's a long-term project, after all. Having said that, see how far you can move it forward today.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
At some point today, you will realize that what seems like harmless enjoyment to you may not be so harmless to other people. It's important to remember that you don't live in a vacuum. Actions always have consequences.

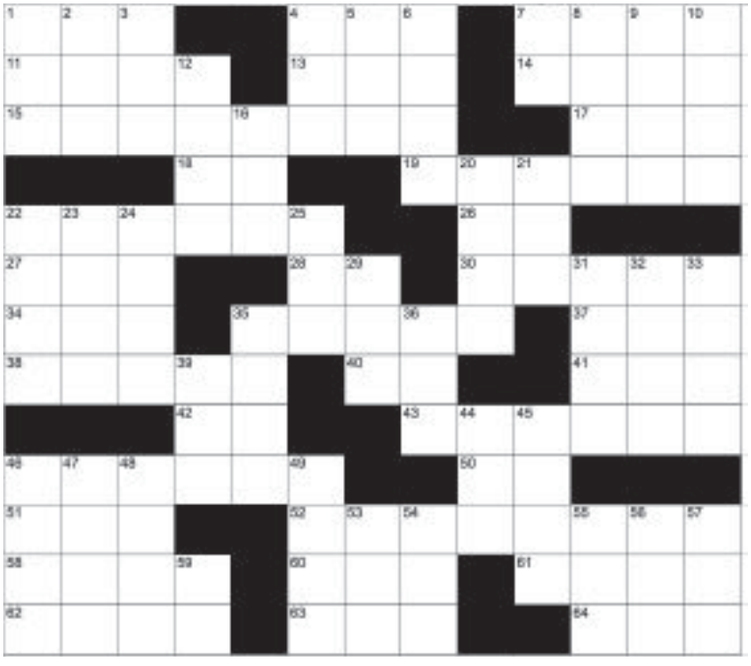
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something will happen over the next two or three days that reminds you of your responsibilities. Most important of all is your duty to loved ones. How can you help ease a relative's pain?

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Others may wonder why you are so difficult to get through to but even an Aquarius needs to spend some time alone. Come the weekend you will be your old self again, open and happy and eager to share.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The limitations and restrictions of the past few days will start to lift and by Monday, at the latest, you will be free to pursue your own interests. Hopefully, those limitations will have taught you the importance of timing. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

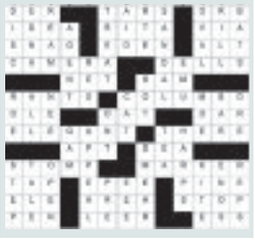
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. — carte (2 wds)
4. Family Ties actor: Michael J. —
7. A softened oath
11. Painted metalware
13. Mine yield
14. Withered
15. Type of stew
17. "The Crying Game" actor Stephen —
18. Commercial message
19. Seem
22. Where ends meet
26. Common Latin abbr.
27. Latin 101 verb
28. Contented sigh
30. Dims
34. Funnyman Conway
35. Rise and —
37. Fury
38. Cubic metre
40. Courtroom figure (abbr.)
41. For shame!
42. Apiece (abbr.)
43. Extremely bright
46. Designer McCartney
50. Musical note
51. — Ramsey
52. Sloppy
58. Crew needs
60. The Royal Canadian — Farce
61. Boxcar rider
62. Factual
63. On the authority of
64. Coal container

Down
1. Banking convenience
2. Role for Ed Asner
3. — My Children
4. Haze
5. Openings (anat.)
6. Warrior princess of TV
7. Plural suffix
8. "An Officer and a Gentleman" actor
9. Locale
10. Letter starter
12. Zest
16. Chemical suffix
20. Tube
21. Small green veggie
22. Broadway musical
23. Overlook
24. Italian capital
25. Bleachers cheer
29. Concealed
31. Boost
32. Lake near Niagara Falls
33. Flower starter
35. Fasten tightly
36. Henpeck
39. Family mem.
44. Brat
45. Child's card game: Go —
46. Photographed
47. Shed one of these
48. Beige shade
49. On the double
53. Fib
54. Like some verbs (abbr.)
55. Peg
56. Sash
57. Put on
59. Opposite of NW

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

8		4		5		2	6	
	1	9						
			3					9
5		2	1					
7			6		5			2
					2	8		7
1					4			
						6	3	
	2	5		8		4		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
1	8	5	9	4	3	2	6	7
4	2	3	7	6	8	5	1	9
9	3	2	4	7	1	6	5	8
5	4	6	8	3	9	7	2	1
7	1	8	6	5	2	9	3	4
2	5	1	3	8	7	4	9	6
3	6	7	5	9	4	1	8	2
8	9	4	1	2	6	3	7	5

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